Dear Howard, 5/17/74

The days I am much stiffer and less steady when I awaken and while I am fully conscious, it somehow seems to take me longer to put my head together. Time was this happened with the opening of the eye. I guess this contributes to the lingering weariness. I'm sleeping longer to try to combat the weariness but thys far I can't seek any change.

So, I'm not as alert and put -together this morning, having just finished making the coffee.

Last night I did clear the hearth and after a trip tp Hagerstown today I'll start moving files there, where they will be more accessible. No, can't until tomorrow. Prof. and wife coming for dinner.

Dick, whose judgement of the market should be good, has been a publishing lawyer all his life. For a while a publisher. Good connections. So, when he says there will be distribution problems, I accept without question. Also other such things. One of these is that a mere rearranging of the transcripts will not in itself be enough. On the other hand, I believe that straining to include something contradictory from another source may be hurtful. And while I believe that the collection of what the tapes say on each thing should be as inclusive as the need for real rush permits, it will have to be cut heavily after compiling because, although we have not discussed it, I do not believe this should be a long work.

Nor do I think it should have as its sole effect saying that Nixon says Nixon is a liar. If we can't urge the eating of babies to end the famine, we should be seeking the satire, the ridiculous, the outrageous and the impossible and playing everything absolutely straight, enever injecting a partisan word. I have not discussed the headlines I meantioned last night with the Dick. If we talk I'll ask but I think the decisions should await the ultimate compilation and with a certain amount we should be ready.

Like when he talks about getting on the with the business of the country, headlines that virtually holler depression, others than talk of 1000% profits, costs of bread and milk or thinks like that.

So, don't be reluctant to indulge your native wit. Give it free reign. The more ridiculous the bracketings, the more effective. People will be more inclined to buy and read and be influence by his making himself totally ridiculous, totally dishonest, etc. And if it makes them laugh, it will not be from the belly but from the mind.

Waiting for Lil Tuesday, when I was half-dozing, I made a few notes of subjects. They may be no good, so merely consider them. I haven't had a chance to look at them. I merely laid them aside when I got home and since then have been busy with other things, including next steps with Lesar.

There may be some overlapping with what ^ noted last night before going to bed. And I'm sure I will have not thought of the best. So the same is true of them, merely consider. I will be repeating them as I noted them, having no more time at this minute and for the rest of the day, predicted to be a scorcher.

Lack knowledge
oyalty
Best man
Innocence hush money
law and order
high principle
Let it all hang out
Respect for courts and justice if it is there , also contempt, specific with justice
Likes hanging judges.
Appreciation for services rendered
Lobe of family, relatives
Personakl honesty
Property
Purity in government ("Drive the crooks out of Washington.")
Dealings with reds ("20 years of treason.")
E and H as best public servants (photocopy indictments)
Ford working too hard (5/213/74)
Use of government machinery (My Eermies memos)

Bebe as thoroughly honest man (you see I am broadening the concept, just in case, in the event there is no reference to Rebozo in the tapes)
"I am not a crook" plus property headlines, taxes, etc.(Messick, Hughes, etc. Newsweek)
Somebody else made the mistakes (like on taxes)
Improvements to property as damaging value
"I have given them all they need" (each time he said it before giving more.
Won't give any more, each time he did before giving.
Poker game quote Kirkpatrick interview 5/16.74 (As of now I don't have)
Get on with business government, confident in, poll headlines. (Faith gov't, too)
Never used federal agencies (someone said) brackets quotes on plans to, i.e. Post
Papers on gift to nation as selfless with quotes (I have from Cong. Rec.) giving him right to take all back
Nobody presently employed involved vs talk I have spotted of Dean telling them two were when H was saying one. and Nixon nothing.
Dean conducted investigation vs conversation prior to Dean entering saying he wasn't and couldn't but was great at suppressing. Ditto, different, Ehr as inv. bracketed his telling Ervin he didn't.
Executive privelege-every president did whereas all eight who referred to were opposite him. I have in Post editorial.
Federal money in his property.
Have not profited at the cost of the public trust (pr was it Agnew)
"I am not a crook" bracketed obvious, taxes, House report headline, etc. planes
I knew nothing about the coverup vs being told Strachan
Letter to Ervin, I have sole custody of tapes and will preserve vs record destruction, disappearance.
Good collection "inaducibles" when meaning obvious
Good collection (expletive deleted" when it has to be fuck, shit, screw, etc.

Time to wake Lil. Had dizzy spell during doing this when I had to bend down, so go over carefully. I'll give this to her to mail so you'll have it Monday a.m. Ann is taking her in when I leave for Hagerstown.

If you had not told me of your job, I would have thought of you to begin with, before Dick asked me about aproject, because I had this idea long ago. However, when I did not get the promised callback from the college and Did did offer an immediate $500 to get srudents to work on this, knowing you and your interests and also feeling that you would do better and faster, I did feel and do feel that your income in the end will be more. You will have time for other employment, and today a grocery clerk makes as much as you were offered, so I'm sure you'll be able to earn the remaining time. Also, I have an agreement from Dick for the girls that would apply to you that if there is a profit they were to get a bonus.

I will be getting nothing unless the project goes to publication. My advance will then be minimal. If there is a profit, I will share. But all costs will come out first. So, there will be nothing in this for me unless it is a success. However, I feel it should succeed and were I feeling better and not determined to do the other book, which I feel nobody else can, I'd do this myself because I think it is a great idea and can be useful.

Or, I think you will be happier, no worse off financially if not better off, and in the end the job will be better done. When I get Dick's check, I'll send.

Thanks, best, and good luck to us all!